

DEPUTY INSPECTOR GENERAL OF
ARMY HOSPITALS,

CHARLES COLLIER,

M.D. F.R.S., F.G.S., &c.

A LIFE SKETCH BY HIS DAUGHTER

M. A. E. I.

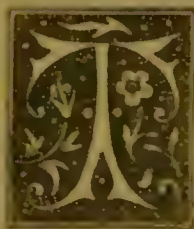
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1870.

DEDICATED
TO THOSE COURTEOUS FRIENDS WHO SO
KINDLY FURNISHED ME WITH
PARTICULAR

M. A. E. L.



THE subject of this brief
Memoir was the son of
William and Elizabeth
Collier. In early youth
he was deprived of his father; but,
through the affectionate guardianship
and assistance of his elder brother,
was enabled to make a fair start
in life. He entered H. M. Service

in 1805 as Medical Cadet, and, during the following year, served in Bermuda as Staff Assistant Surgeon. Subsequently he was ordered to the West Indies, and was present at the capture of Martinique in 1809. From the latter part of 1812 until the peace of 1814, he was with the army during the campaigns in the Peninsula, and south of France, and was on the Medical Staff at the battles of Vittoria, Orthes, and Toulouse. In the next year he is mentioned as serving in Belgium, and Hanover.

In November, 1817, Mr. Collier, being appointed Staff Surgeon to the Forces, was ordered to Ceylon, where, soon after his arrival, he had, for some few years, the medical charge of the troops at Trincomalee. In the leisure afforded by his more immediate duties, he gave his particular attention to conchology, and made a complete collection of the shells, many of which were rare, inhabiting that part of the Indian Ocean. Not satisfied with outward forms, by diligent and minute dissection he displayed the anatomy or

functional organs of the living mollusks, and in the course of his studies was enabled to discover certain facts connected with their structure. Mr. Collier had these dissections most artistically drawn in water-colours by an intelligent Staff Assistant Surgeon, and transmitted them to the Royal Society through their late secretary, Dr. Roget. He also formed a Museum for the Natural History of Ceylon.

In February, 1822, Mr. Collier married Miss Christina Johnstone, second

daughter of the Rev. John Johnstone, minister of Crossmichael, Kirkcudbright. He had several children, of whom but one, the youngest, survives him.

Staff Surgeon Collier was subsequently removed from Trincomalee to Colombo, to take the direction of hospitals, both military and civil. In the Dutch town outside the Fort, besides a general hospital for the civil population, there are in the suburbs asylums for incurable lepers, and for the insane. These useful and humane insti-

tutions were founded by the Dutch Government, and their medical wants were administered by native practitioners of the Burgher class. Mr. Collier, by his able management and personal inspection, materially improved the interior economy of these valuable establishments, and was instrumental in procuring for their medical attendants some increase to their previous miserable pay. This useful class is now more liberally treated. Staff Surgeon Collier, by appointing Army Medical Officers at the principal sta-

tions, to assist and direct the labours of the native vaccinators, greatly extended the practice of vaccination throughout the Island

In December, 1828, Mr. Collier, now promoted to the rank of Deputy-Inspector of Hospitals, left Colombo for the Mauritius, where he was principal Medical Officer. He remained in this island upwards of four years, and found many opportunities for continuing his favourite pursuit. In 1829, he published, in the *Edinburgh New Philosophical Journal*, "General Ob-

servations on Univalves ;" and in 1830, sent to the same journal a short communication "On the Tripang, or Sea Slug of India." In this same year he became a Fellow of the Royal Society ; and, in July, was promoted to the rank of Deputy Inspector General of Hospitals. His next and last station was Bombay.

In 1838, Mr. Collier retired from the Service ; and, during the latter part of this year, after his return to England, became a Fellow of the Geological Society. In 1840, he took the

degree of M.D. at St. Andrews.* In 1844 he was made an Honorary Fellow of the Royal College of Surgeons. Lastly, in 1849, he was elected a Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians of London. Dr. Collier was, moreover, during many years a member of, and an assiduous attendant at, the Royal Institution of Great Britain.

* He was invited to St. Andrews, and was advised to take his degree there, by his old friend and connection, the Rev. C. J. Lyon, then Incumbent of St. Andrew's Church, in that city.

Up to an advanced period of life, Dr. Collier devoted himself to pursuits of a scientific and literary character. Concerning the former we have already spoken, and it remains but to add a word with respect to the latter. He had given much attention to the study of philology, as his MSS. abundantly testify. He was a profound Greek scholar, and possessed an intimate knowledge of Latin. In early life he was an ardent student of the Spanish language and literature, and became subsequently an accomplished French

and German scholar. His works in literature are entitled, "Aristotle on the Vital Principle, translated from the Original Text, with Notes," 1855, the Notes occupying nearly half the volume; "An Essay on the Principles of Education physiologically considered," 1856; and "The History of the Plague of Athens, translated from Thucydides, with remarks explanatory of its Pathology," 1857.

With regard to his personal character, it may be observed that he was as distinguished by his powers of con-

versation, and the genial disposition evinced in his social intercourse, as for the activity he manifested in his learned pursuits.

Dr. Collier died on the 6th of May, 1870, at his residence, 20, Fitzroy Square, London, aged 86.

